

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (new): A vacuum treatment planet system workpiece support for vacuum treatment installation, comprising:

a sun system (9, 9') rotatable with respect to the installation about a sun system axis (7) which can be coupled to a drive (1), the sun system having a sun wheel (9);

at least one planet system (17, 17') rotatably coupled to said sun system to rotate about said sun system axis (7) and rotatable about a planet axis (11) and having a driving coupling (15, 13) for driving the planet system about said planet axis; and

at least one moon system (29, 31) supported on the planet system (17) and rotatable about a moon axis (19) and having a driving connection to the sun system (7, 9, 9');

said moon system having at least two moon wheels (29) staggered one upon the other along said moon axis (19) and mutually distant, each of said moon wheels (29) having a receiver for at least one workpiece, and wherein the driving connection of said moon system to said sun system, at least during operation, is established uninterruptedly.

Claim 11 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said driving connection to said sun system is a forced driving connection.

Claim 12 (new): The system of claim 11, wherein said driving connection to said sun system is a toothed driving connection.

Claim 13 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said driving connection to said sun system comprises a transfer configuration (21; 60, 66, 68; 76, 80, 86) freely rotatable about said planet axis (11) and engaging under transfer on the one hand said sun system (27; 64; 72; 76) and on the other hand said moon system (29).

Claim 14 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said driving connection to said sun system comprises a transfer wheel (21) freely rotatable about said planet axis (11) and engaging a transfer wheel (29) of the moon system and having a rotational detent (25) acting onto a stop (27) on the sun system (9).

Claim 15 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said driving connection to said sun system comprises a transfer ring surface disposed coaxially to the sun axis (64, 72) on the sun system (9), in engagement with a transfer wheel (60, 29) of the moon system.

Claim 16 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said driving connection to said sun system comprises a transfer wheel (60, 76) rotatably supported on said planet system (9), which via a further transfer wheel (66, 80) and a transfer ring (68, 86) revolving about the planet axis (11), is in rolling engagement with a transfer wheel (29) of the moon system.

Claim 17 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein a planet wheel (17') drives a transfer axle (78) which is rotatably supported on the sun wheel (9), and that the transfer axle (78) via a further transfer wheel (80) as well as a transfer ring (86) revolving about the planet axle (11), is in rolling engagement with a transfer wheel (29) of the moon system.

Claim 18 (new): the system of claim 10, wherein at least one of said drive of said sun system, said driving coupling of said planet system and of said driving connection comprises at least one predetermined break point (51).

Claim 19 (new): The system of claim 10, wherein said sun system axle (7) is guided through a stationary drive wheel (88) and a belt drive (90) wraps around the drive wheel (88) and a drive wheel (13') on the planet system.

Claim 20 (new): A method for vacuum surface treatment of workpieces in which the workpieces are moved in the treatment atmosphere on a first circular path about a first axis (7), additionally along a second circular path, about a second axis (11) offset from said first axis and parallel to the first (7), and further about a third axis (19) offset from said second axis and parallel thereto, wherein all three rotational motions are generated continuously and wherein a multitude of said workpieces are simultaneously treated staggered along said third axis.